IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) An organic electroluminescent (OEL) element comprising:

(a) a signal electrode;

(b) a scanning electrode; and

(c) an organic thin film disposed between said signal electrode and said scanning electrode;

said signal electrode, said organic thin film and said scanning electrode disposed on a substrate,

wherein said signal electrode is formed of N-layer electrodes laminated, the layers being insulated from each other, and being formed one on top of the other without any scanning electrodes being disposed in between,

wherein a layer M electrode is formed on a layer (M-1) electrode via the insulator, an area of layer M electrode being smaller than an area of layer (M-1) electrode,

wherein M is an integer not more than integer N and greater than 1.

2. (Original) The OEL element of claim 1, wherein said organic thin film and said scanning electrode are formed on layer N electrode and on layer (M-1) electrode

not covered with layer M electrode.

3. (Original) The OEL element of claim 2, wherein said scanning electrode is an anode when said signal electrode is a cathode, or said scanning electrode is a cathode when said signal electrode is an anode.

4. (Original) The OEL element of claim 2, wherein said signal electrodes are laminated like steps.

5. (Original) The OEL element of claim 4, wherein said organic thin film and said scanning electrode are formed on said signal electrodes.

6. (Original) The OEL element of claim 2, wherein lead-wires from said signal electrodes are routed in one direction.

7. (Original) The OEL element of claim 5, wherein lead-wires from said signal electrodes are routed in one direction.

8. (Original) The OEL element of claim 1, wherein a difference between an area of layer M electrode and an area of layer (M-1) electrode is approximately 1/N of a

whole display area.

9. (Original) The OEL element of claim 2, wherein a difference between an area of layer M electrode and an area of layer (M-1) electrode is approximately 1/N of a whole display area.

10. (Original) The OEL element of claim 5, wherein a difference between an area of layer M electrode and an area of layer (M-1) electrode is approximately 1/N of a whole display area.

11. (Original) The OEL element of claim 1, wherein N is one of 2 and 3.

12. (Original) An organic electroluminescence (OEL) panel comprising a plurality of OEL elements of claim 1 on one substrate.

13. (Original) An organic electroluminescence (OEL) panel comprising a plurality of OEL elements of claim 2 on one substrate.

14. (Previously presented) An organic electroluminescence (OEL) apparatus comprising:

(A) an OEL element including;

(a) a signal electrode;

(b) a scanning electrode;

(c) an organic thin film disposed between said signal electrode and said scanning electrode;

said signal electrode, said organic thin film and said scanning electrode disposed on a substrate,

wherein said signal electrode (a) is formed of N-layer electrodes laminated, the layers being insulated from each other, and being formed one on top of the other without any scanning electrodes being disposed in between,

wherein a layer M electrode is formed on layer (M-1) electrode via the insulator, an area of layer M electrode being smaller than an area of layer (M-1) electrode,

wherein M is an integer not more than integer N and greater than 1.

wherein said scanning electrode (a) and said organic thin film (b) are formed on layer N electrode and on layer (M-1) electrode not covered with layer M electrode, and

(B) driving means for driving said OEL element.

15. (Original) The OEL apparatus of claim 14, wherein said driving means is disposed on the substrate.

16. (Original) The OEL apparatus of claim 14, wherein said signal electrodes are laminated like steps, said organic thin film and said scanning electrode are formed on said signal electrodes.

17. (Original) The OEL apparatus of claim 14, wherein said OEL element further comprises lead-wires from said signal electrodes routed in one direction.

18. (Original) The OEL apparatus of claim 14, wherein said a plurality of OEL elements are formed on one substrate.

19. (Previously presented) An organic electroluminescent element comprising:

(a) a signal electrode;

(b) a scanning electrode; and

(c) an organic thin film disposed between said signal electrode and said scanning electrode;

said signal electrode, said organic thin film and said scanning electrode disposed on a substrate,

wherein said signal electrodes are formed of N-layer electrodes laminated, the layers being insulated from each other,

wherein a layer M electrode is formed on a layer (M-1) electrode via the

insulator, an area of layer M electrode being smaller than an area of layer (M-1) electrode,

wherein M is an integer not more than integer N and greater than 1, and

wherein a difference between an area of layer M electrode and an area of layer (M-1) electrode is approximately 1/N of a whole display area.

20. (Previously presented) An organic electroluminescent element comprising:

(a) a signal electrode;

(b) a scanning electrode; and

(c) an organic thin film disposed between said signal electrode and said scanning electrode;

said signal electrode, said organic thin film and said scanning electrode disposed on a substrate,

wherein said signal electrodes are formed of N-layer electrodes laminated, the layers being insulated from each other,

wherein a layer M electrode is formed on a layer (M-1) electrode via the insulator, an area of layer M electrode being smaller than an area of layer (M-1) electrode,

wherein M is an integer not more than integer N and greater than 1,

wherein said organic thin film and said scanning electrode are formed on layer N

electrode and on layer (M-1) electrode not covered with layer M electrode, and

wherein a difference between an area of layer M electrode and an area of layer (M-1) electrode is approximately 1/N of a whole display area.

21. (Previously presented) An organic electroluminescent element comprising:

(a) a signal electrode;

(b) a scanning electrode; and

(c) an organic thin film disposed between said signal electrode and said scanning electrode;

said signal electrode, said organic thin film and said scanning electrode disposed on a substrate,

wherein said signal electrodes are formed of N-layer electrodes laminated, the layers being insulated from each other,

wherein a layer M electrode is formed on a layer (M-1) electrode via the insulator, an area of layer M electrode being smaller than an area of layer (M-1) electrode,

wherein M is an integer not more than integer N and greater than 1,

wherein said organic thin film and said scanning electrode are formed on layer N electrode and on layer (M-1) electrode not covered with layer M electrode,

wherein said signal electrodes are laminated like steps,

wherein said organic thin film and said scanning electrode are formed on said signal electrodes, and

wherein a difference between an area of layer M electrode and an area of layer (M-1) electrode is approximately 1/N of a whole display area.

22. (Previously presented) The OEL element of claim 1, wherein said signal electrode comprises patterned lines having a predetermined width and pitch.

23. (Previously presented) The OEL element of claim 1, wherein all of said signal electrodes on layer N are formed so as to be made available on a same plane of the substrate.

24. (Previously presented) The OEL element of claim 1, wherein said signal electrodes is an anode and said scanning electrode is a cathode.

25. (Previously presented) The OEL element of claim 1, wherein said signal electrodes is a cathode and said scanning electrode is an anode.

26. (Currently amended) An organic electroluminescent (OEL) element comprising:

(a) an anode;

(b) an organic thin film; and

(c) a cathode;

said anode, said organic thin film and said cathode disposed on a substrate,

wherein said anode is formed of N-layer electrodes laminated, the electrodes being insulated from each other, and being formed one on top of the other without any ~~anodes~~ cathodes being disposed in between,

wherein a layer M electrode is formed on a layer (M-1) electrode via the insulator, an area of layer M electrode being smaller than an area of layer (M-1) electrode,

wherein M is an integer not more than integer N and greater than 1.

27. (Currently amended) An organic electroluminescent (OEL) element comprising:

(a) an anode;

(b) an organic thin film; and

(c) a cathode;

said anode, said organic thin film and said cathode disposed on a substrate,

wherein said cathode is formed of N-layer electrodes laminated, the electrodes being insulated from each other, and being formed one on top of the other without any

~~cathodes~~ anodes being disposed in between,

wherein a layer M electrode is formed on a layer (M-1) electrode via the insulator, an area of layer M electrode being smaller than an area of layer (M-1) electrode,

wherein M is an integer not more than integer N and greater than 1.